

NEWS RELEASE

United States District Court
Northern District of Ohio

December 14, 2004

A law suit was commenced in the Northern District of Ohio on October 11, 2002, challenging the continued use of punch card voting machines in the vast majority of counties in Ohio. The plaintiffs singled out four counties and the Secretary of State in their case seeking a declaration that the continued use of punch card voting machines in Ohio was in violation of the United States Constitution. Additionally the plaintiffs contended that the use of punch card voting machines in Hamilton (Cincinnati), Montgomery (Dayton), and Summit (Akron) Counties violated the Voting Rights Act. The case was conducted as a bench trial before Senior Judge David D. Dowd, Jr. in Akron. Judge Dowd heard testimony on July 26, 27, and 28, 2004; September 30, 2004; and October 1, 2004. Following the trial, the parties filed post trial briefs on November 15, 2004. Today, December 14, 2004, Judge Dowd filed a 32 page opinion together with three appendices. Judge Dowd found that the plaintiffs were not entitled to relief. Judge Dowd found that the continued use of punch card voting technology does not violate the United States Constitution

or the Voting Rights Act.

Judge Dowd's opinion may be found at www.ohnd.uscourts.gov under
“Election Related and Other Notable Cases.”

